

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DPW-01

SCA-01 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 /113 W

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R 101145Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 315

INFO AMEMASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTINAE

USMISSION USUN

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E.O.11652 NA

TAGS EAID VN VS

SUBJ U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO RED CROSS INDOCHINA OPERATIONAL GROUP
(IOG)

REFS A) STATE 092733, B) GENEVA 1409

SUMMARY. IOG COORDINATOR STROH REQUESTED MISOFF RELAY
REQUEST FOR USG CONTRIBUTION OF \$4 MILLION TO IOG FOR URGENT
INDOCHINA PROGRAM NEEDS. IOG NOW LACKS 35 MILLION SWISS
FRANCS AND SEES GREAT PEACE PROMOTING POTENTIAL IN MEETING
THESE NEEDS. END SUMMARY.

1. MISOFF MET WITH IOG COORDINATOR OLOF STROH EVENING
JULY 9 AT LATTER'S INVITATION TO DISCUSS IOG FINANCIAL SITUATION.
STROH JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO INDOCHINA AND LEAVING
JULY 10 FOR MONTH'S DUTY AT SWEDISH RED CROSS IN STOCKHOLM.

2. COMMENTING ONLY FLEETINGLY ON HIS VISIT TO INDOCHINA,
STROH CAME QUICKLY TO POINT OF HIS DISCUSSION. HE SAID
TOTAL IOG PROGRAM IN INDOCHINA REQUIRES 100 MILLION SWISS
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FRANCS. OF THIS AMOUNT, 70 MILLION SWISS FRANCS REQUIRED

FOR MOST PRESSING NEEDS WHILE 30 MILLION BALANCE REQUIRED FOR USEFUL BUT LONGER TERM ASSISTANCE. IOG HAS RECEIVED CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALLING EQUIVALENT ABOUT 35 MILLION SWISS FRANCS TO DATE AND THUS URGENTLY NEEDS ADDITIONAL EQUIVALENT 35 MILLION SWISS FRANCS CONTRIBUTION FOR PRIORITY PROJECTS.

3. STROH THEN REFERRED TO HIS MAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON (REFTEL(A)) DURING WHICH HE MADE PLEA FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION WHICH HE SAID WAS MET WITH RESPONSE THAT TIME WAS NOT RIGHT FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION BECAUSE VIETNAME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS THEN IN PROGRESS. STROH ALSO SAID AMERICAN RED CROSS ALMOST WHOLLY DEPENDENT UPON PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND CONTINUALLY FACED WITH REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN DOMESTIC NATURAL DISASTERS THUS UNABLE MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO IOG. ONLY LOGICAL SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTION IN U.S. IS THEREFORE USG. AT SAME TIME, STROH SAID, IOG VERY CONSCIOUS OF NEED FOR QUOTE BALANCED UNQUOTE CONTRIBUTION FROM USG, I.E., ONE WHICH WOULD NOT OVERSHADOW OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS AND THEREBY CONVEY UNDESIRED POLITICAL CONNOTATION. MISOFF ASSURED STROH THIS NOT LIKELY AND STATED IOG VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT ALREADY RELAYED TO DEPT (REFTEL (B)).

4. ASKED WHAT RANGE OF CONTRIBUTION IOG IS SEEKING FROM USG, STROH SAID ABOUT \$4 MILLION. HE HOPED USG CONTRIBUTION WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE EARMARKED BUT SAID IOG WILLING TO MAKE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT GUARANTEEING SET POSITION OF CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE USED IN PARTICULAR COUNTRY, E.G., CAMBODIA, IF U.S. SO DESIRED.

5. STROH STRESSED IOG OPERATIONAL IN ALL AREAS OF INDOCHINA EXCEPT GRUNK AREAS, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO GRUNK INABILITY HANDLE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS RATHER THAN ILL WILL TOWARD IOG, STATING GRUNK AMBASSADOR TO HANOI HAD SHOWN GREAT CORDIALITY AT THEIR LAST MEETING. STROH ALSO STRESSED GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT IOG ASSISTANCE MAKES ON INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENTS EVERYWHERE AND SAID ASIDE FROM HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS SUCH ASSISTANCE HAS STRONG PEACE PROMOTING POTENTIAL IN ALL INDOCHINA.

6. MISOFF AGREED RELAY IOG REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPARTMENT AND INFORM STROH OF RESPONSE THERETO ALTHOUGH STATED HE UNABLE ASSESS PROBABLE REACTION IN WASHINGTON. REQUEST RESPONSE.BASSIN

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